

## A whole world of Christmas songs — “Cantique de Noël”

Noosa Chorale singers are turning their hidden polyglot skills to bringing Noosa an international feast of songs at Christmas time, under the direction of maestro Kim Kirkman.

With a repertoire from cultures far and wide across the world’s continents, they will be singing in Spanish, German, Ukrainian, Estonian, Tagalog, Latin, and of course English.

The delightful song “Shchedryk” will be very familiar to many people, specially folk who heard it in its English version as “Carol of the Bells” in the 1990 film “Home Alone” as arranged by John Williams. But the choir will be singing it in Ukrainian, to acknowledge its origins.

The song tells the tale of a swallow flying into a household to proclaim the coming bountiful year that the family will have—a very apt message at Christmas and the coming of the new year, although the English version has substituted bells for the swallow.

The song was based on a Ukrainian folklore song featured in a 1919 concert tour of Europe to generate support for the newly independent nation of Ukraine and quickly came to be associated with Ukraine’s national revival at the time.

The Australian “Carol of the Birds” couldn’t be more different. Yet the sentiment of national pride was equally strong for Australian lyricist John Wheeler who set William James’ music to words celebrating our bush birds—the brolgas, friar birds, bellbirds, currawongs and lorikeets.

As Australia’s Christmas celebrations proceed downunder in December’s relentless heat, those in the far northern hemisphere prepare for wintry snow and ice. The excited pace

of the Estonian carol “Üle Lume Lagedale” has the choir racing along on a joyous sleigh road through the Baltic snow, looking forward to the arrival of Santa.

In North America, Canada’s oldest Christmas song, the “Huron Carol” speaks of a nativity attended by “hunter braves” rather than Magi, with the baby Jesus wrapped in “a ragged rabbit skin”. The hymn dates from the mid 1600s by Jean de Brebeuf, a Jesuit missionary working among Canada’s indigenous Hurons.

In the USA, “Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire” was popularised by Nat King Cole, and the song “Let it Snow” hit the charts internationally with Dean Martin’s smoothly languorous recording of it.

The Spanish lullaby to the baby Jesus, “A la Nanita Nana”, is much loved throughout the Hispanic world, and is intertwined beautifully in Greg Gilpin’s arrangement with the traditional English “Coventry Carol”.

Also sung in Spanish, “El Burrito Sabanero” tells the story of a little boy riding a donkey to Bethlehem to see the newborn baby Jesus. With its

groovy Latin American rhythm, and its earworm refrain of “tuki, tuki, tuki, tuki” mimicking the clomping of the donkey’s feet, it will be impossible for the choir to stand still whilst singing it.

More traditional Christmas carols are also part of the concert programme. The arrangement in German of “Stille Nacht” (silent night) is hauntingly beautiful and quite unusual. Likewise the arrangement by Zoltan Kodaly of “Veni, veni Emmanuel” in Latin is unexpected and sublimely graceful.

The song selection spans the globe, from Canada to the Philippines, from Europe to Africa, from Estonia to South America and Australia.

With well-loved audience favourites and sing-along moments, wonderful accompaniment from Janet Brewer on piano, some special solo numbers from choir members, and a stunningly decorated hall, this joyful concert promises a warm and welcoming celebration for all.

Friday 12 December at 7pm  
Saturday 13 December at 2pm  
At The J Theatre, Noosa Junction

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Noosa Chorale PRESENTS

# CANTIQUE DE NOËL

CHRISTMAS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

7.00pm, Friday 12 December 2025  
2.00pm, Saturday 13 December 2025

Tickets: \$49 Adults | \$30 Children/Students  
[www.thej.com.au](http://www.thej.com.au) | 07 5329 6560  
The J Theatre (60 Noosa Drive, Noosa Junction)



**Huron Carol**



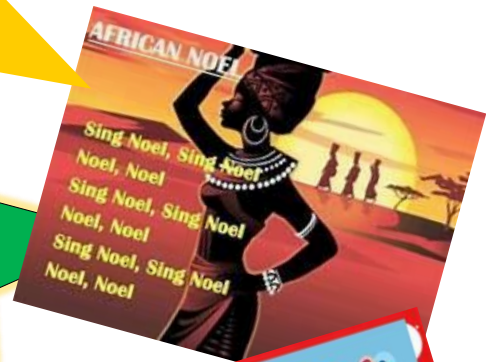
CRIMEAN CHAMBER CHOIR  
Direction IGOR MIKHAILEVSKIY  
« SHCHEDRYK »

Join us for a memorable experience of music, community, and Christmas spirit.

And a fine raffle with enticing prizes donated by our generous local business.



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TO  
BOOK**



## Journo Jim celebrates turning 90

Chorale life member Jim Fagan's 90th birthday party was an unmissable opportunity for 50 family and friends to gather at The Barn in Cooroibah to celebrate the entry by this elder statesman of the press to nonagenarian status.

Jim's and wife Jo's children, grandchildren, and a great grandchild arrived from far and wide, some needing multiple flights from interstate to make the journey which they wouldn't have missed for the world.

Jim, whose articles regularly appear in Noosa Today, has been a journalist all his working life and continuing into his very busy retirement.

He started out as a 16-year copy boy at the Glasgow Evening News, then moved on to full-scale wordsmithing for the Otago Daily Times in New Zealand.

As a young Sydney reporter on assignment in Hollywood in the late 1960s for Sir Frank Packer's *Women's Weekly* and *Everybody's*, he was rubbing shoulders with the entertainment royalty of the day, coaxing stories out of people like John Wayne, Kirk Douglas, Sonny and Cher, and Dean Martin.

Not content with being the author of news stories for newspapers like the Scottish Daily Express and the Sydney Daily Telegraph throughout his long history as a journalist, this "man of letters" has also written several books.

Along with two well-loved children's books, he wrote the steamily titled "Sex at the Cinema" - as well as "The Hell Raisers" (with Jim Oram) in the late 1960s, giving voice to his fascination with the worlds of cinema and jazz music.

"Noosa Sings", the book he wrote in 2009 about Noosa Chorale, with whom Jim has sung bass since 2002, is a treasured record of the choir's first fifteen years since its 1994 establishment.

The highlight of the birthday festivities on the day was Jim's coronation by his grandchildren, complete with crown, imperial robe and sceptre, and a flash mob with the famous Hallelujah chorus from Handel's *Messiah* as musical accompaniment, led by a contingent of friends from Noosa Chorale.



Jim Fagan crowned king by his extended family. Photo: Ann Milland



(l to r) John Davies, Jim Fagan, Ian Jobling, Jonathan Anstock. Photo: Ann Milland



(l to r) Debbie Boyles, Pam Sage, Cal Webb, Gai Ramsay. Photo: Ann Milland



**Conversations in Counterpoint**

Intimate Baroque chamber music for violin, viola da gamba and harpsichord by Telemann, JS Bach and Buxtehude, plus Purcell's sublime aria "Music for a While", Vivaldi's Motet "In Furore" and his thrilling aria "Agitata da due venti". Performed by Judit Molnar (soprano), Margaret Caley (baroque violin), Frank Fodor (baroque viola), Shannon Scheltema (viola da gamba) and Janet Brewer (harpsichord).

Saturday 1 November 3.00pm

Cooroy Memorial Hall

Tickets <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1443333>



**Oriana Choir's 20th Anniversary Concert**

Led by Artistic Director Kim Kirkman

Sunday 2 November 2pm

Venue 114, Sportsmans Parade, Bokarina

Tickets: [www.oriana.org.au](http://www.oriana.org.au)

*Pacific Chamber Players*

# Baroque Brilliance

HANDEL  
Atalanta Overture  
VIVALDI  
Concerto Ripieno in C major, RV 114  
ZELENKA  
Sonata No 3  
PURCELL  
Sonata in D, Z850  
BRESCIANELLO  
Sonata for Two Violins and Continuo in B minor  
VIVALDI  
Concerto for Oboe and Bassoon, RV 545

2:30pm  
**Saturday November 29**  
Eudlo Hall

**Sunday November 30**  
Cooroy Memorial Hall

Tickets:  
[www.pacificchamberplayers.com](http://www.pacificchamberplayers.com) or cash at the door.  
Adults \$35/Concessions \$33  
School Student \$12

Pacific Chamber Players' Baroque Brilliance programme is promising to be brilliant! The accomplished ensemble is preparing Handel's Atalanta Overture, Vivaldi's Concerto Ripieno in C major RV 114 and Concerto for Oboe and Bassoon RV 545, Purcell's Trumpet Sonata in D, Brescianello's Sonata for Two Violin and Continuo and Zelenka's Sonata No 3.

Saturday 29 November 2.30pm at Eudlo Hall  
Sunday 30 November 2.30pm at Cooroy Memorial Hall. Tickets are Adult \$35, Concession \$33 and School Student \$12. These are available online at

<http://www.pacificchamberplayers.com/2025-season.html> or cash at the door.

TRIO SOLE PRESENTS

# CHRISTMAS Soiree

EXPERIENCE GLORIOUS FESTIVE CLASSICS FROM SOPRANO VANESSA WEST, NEAPOLITAN TENOR RAFFAELE PIERNO AND PIANIST JANET BREWER.

SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER AT 3 PM	COOROY MEMORIAL HALL
SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER AT 3 PM	CALOUNDRA UNITING CHURCH

TICKETS  
ADULT \$45/ CONC \$40  
(ALSO SOLD AT DOOR/CASH ONLY)

SCAN FOR TRYBOOKING

SUPPORTED BY THE PACIFIC CHAMBER PLAYERS

After the success of their Melodie D'Amore concert series earlier this year, the Sunshine Coast's newest classical ensemble — Trio Sole — returns to the stage with their very first Christmas concert series.

Sunday 7 December 3.00pm  
Cooroy Memorial Hall  
Sunday 21 December  
Caloundra Uniting Church.  
Tickets are Adult \$45 and Concession \$40. These are available online

<https://www.trybooking.com/book/search?keyword=christmas%20@%20cooroy&location=cooroy&date=> or purchased cash only at the door.

## Ave Maria

A CELEBRATION OF THE FEMINE IN CHRISTIAN MUSIC

A SELECTION OF  
AVE MARIA, SALVE REGINA, MOZART'S REGINA COELI AND STANFORD'S MAGNIFICAT, PLUS MANY OTHER BEAUTIFUL PIECES.

PERFORMED BY THE INSPIRATION PROJECT CHOIR  
DIRECTED BY  
KIM KIRKMAN  
WITH JUDIT MOLNAR,  
SOPRANO AND ORCHESTRA.

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2PM  
WHITE EAGLE LODGE, 19 TESSIE ROAD, WITTA  
[www.trybooking.com/DGAGY](http://www.trybooking.com/DGAGY)

SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2PM  
STELLA MARIS PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL  
5 STELLA WAY, MAROOCHYDORE  
[www.trybooking.com/DGAGZ](http://www.trybooking.com/DGAGZ)  
TICKETS \$30 ONLINE OR AT DOOR

Inspiration Choir presents  
**Ave Maria: A Celebration of the Feminine in Christian Music**

Directed by Kim Kirkman with Judit Molnar (soprano) and orchestra.

Saturday 8 November 2pm at White Eagle Lodge Witta

[www.trybooking.com/DGAGY](http://www.trybooking.com/DGAGY)

Sunday 9 November 2pm at Stella Maris Primary School Hall Maroochydore

[www.trybooking.com/DGAGZ](http://www.trybooking.com/DGAGZ)

Tickets \$30 online or at the door

- [www.noosachorale.org.au/concerts](http://www.noosachorale.org.au/concerts)
- [www.noosachorale.org.au/sing-with-us](http://www.noosachorale.org.au/sing-with-us)
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